

Green Dog Parks & Off-Leash Hours

Parks not listed do **not** have off-leash hours

ALL HOURS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
PLEASE CHECK SIGNAGE

Off-Leash Hours

Dawn to 9:00 a.m.

- Boylston Street Playground (Boylston St.)
- Daniel Ford Playground at Emerson Garden (Waverly Rd.)
- Corey Hill Park (Summit Ave.)
- Coolidge Playground (Columbia St.)
- Mary E. Robinson Playground (Cypress & Franklin St.)
- Lotta Bradburn Schick Park (Addington Rd.)
- Soule Recreation Center (Hammond St.)
- Jean Waldstein Playground (Dean Rd.)

Off-Leash Hours

Dawn to 1:00 p.m.

- Amory Playground (Amory St.)
 - Harry Downes Field (Jamaica Rd.)
- Note: No dogs allowed in fenced portion of park with track.
- Griggs Park (Griggs Rd.)
 - Daniel J. Warren Playground (Eliot St.)

Off-Leash Hours

Dawn to 1:00 p.m., March through November

Dawn to Dusk, December through February

- Brookline Avenue Playground (Brookline Ave.)
- Larz Anderson Park (Newton St.)

Note: Top of the hill area, Avon Street side ONLY. No dogs allowed in children's play area, pond, or garden area.

Dogs are generally not allowed on any of the fields during the month of March when the ground is thawing.

Please heed Field Closed Signage.

The Green Dog Program logo will be displayed in designated parks with program hours.

January 2010

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why are off-leash hours occasionally suspended?

A: During permitted activities (school group activities, sports games, etc.), dogs must be on-leash for their safety and the comfort of other park users. When Parks crews are working in the parks, dogs must be on-leash for the safety of both the animals and the crews. Finally, fields may be completely closed when they are wet due to inclement weather, if heavy rain is anticipated, during the spring thaw, or for other reasons related to maintaining healthy fields. We post field closed signs, and you can call the Recreation hotline 24 hours a day at 730-2083 to hear a recording if fields are closed.

Q: I'm a dog walker. Can I bring my clients to play and exercise off-leash?

A: Everyone, including dog walkers, is limited to three off-leash dogs per person. Note that the off-leash dogs must be under voice control and in your sight at all times. It is not recommended to bring multiple on and off-leash dogs, since you are not able to easily attend to off-leash dogs if necessary.

Q: Why do I need to license my dog?

A: Massachusetts state law requires that all dogs be licensed, and have a current rabies vaccination. Licensing is critical to ensuring the health of our canine friends and other people, and can help identify your dog if they become lost. For more information, contact the Town Clerk's office at 730-2010.

Q: How do I get more information or make suggestions about the program?

A: The Park and Recreation Commission, Recreation Department, and Parks and Open Space Division all welcome your questions and comments. Please check our website for further information and updates at www.brooklinema.gov/GreenDog or contact us at 730-2069.

Q: How do I report violations?

A: To report off-leash or other violations, particularly aggressive dogs, contact the Brookline Police Department 24 hours a day at 730-2222.

Town of Brookline

GreenDog

Program

Under supervision of the

**Brookline Park and Recreation
Commission**



133 Eliot Street
Brookline, MA 02467
Phone (617) 730-2069

www.brooklinema.gov/GreenDog



What is the Green Dog Program?

The Green Dog Program is an innovative approach to meeting our dogs' and dog owners' desire to have time off-leash, while sharing the spaces with other park users in our urban community. Brookline has 14 off-leash areas across the Town, with specific off-leash hours established by the Park and Recreation Commission. Dog owners are allowed to play with their dogs off-leash, during these designated times, following the program rules and regulations.

The Park and Recreation Commission is a policy-making board, staffed with volunteers appointed by the Board of Selectmen, to oversee and provide year-round indoor and outdoor recreation activities, and to oversee park planning, renovations, and use. The Commission created the Green Dog Program in response to requests from residents who expressed a desire for dog owners to not only enjoy, but also serve as better stewards of our parks. The Commission developed the program with input from a Green Dog Advisory Committee and many enthusiastic residents, following a thorough analysis of park usage throughout the Town.

The Green Dog Program benefits everyone! Dogs get needed exercise and socialization often leading to better behavior, owners get to socialize with fellow dog owners and park visitors, and other park users still have time to play and relax in the parks. The outcome is a happier community. We have thousands of park users, and sharing our parks helps us maximize the use and enjoyment we all receive from our open spaces.

With good stewardship and courtesy, you can play a role in keeping our parks clean, safe and well-maintained - places where you and your dog are always welcome.

How does the Program work?

Joining the program is easy. Follow these simple steps to get you and your dog involved:

Before you go to a park:

- 1) License your dog and make sure vaccinations are current. Put license and identification on dog's collar.
- 2) Make sure your dog is under voice control (dog responds to and obeys your verbal commands).
- 3) Find a park near you with off-leash hours.
- 4) Bring along your dog's leash and bags for waste.

At the park:

- 1) Keep your dog on-leash until you are in the park. Keep your leash on hand at all times.
- 2) Check for park closed signs, wet fields, crews working in the park, or permitted activities, all of which mean off-leash hours are suspended.
- 3) Pick up after your dog and encourage others to do the same.
- 4) Keep your dog in sight at all times and under voice control.
- 5) Be mindful of your dog so that other park visitors are not anxious about their safety. Many people do not like unfamiliar dogs approaching them, and only you know whether your dog is friendly to other people.
- 6) Enjoy some off-leash fun with your dog!

The Park and Recreation Commission has the authority to temporarily or permanently close, or modify the boundaries of off-leash areas for any reason including the following: environmental damage, failure to comply with rules and regulations, public health or safety, or serious unanticipated problems affecting other park users. Violators are subject to incremental fines, removal from the off-leash area, and suspension of off-leash privileges.

Rules and Regulations

1) Know When to Keep Your Dog *On-Leash*

- ◆ Dogs are allowed off-leash **ONLY** in designated areas. Keep your dog leashed when entering or exiting the off-leash area.
- ◆ Off-leash hours are suspended when there are permitted or school based special activities in a park.
- ◆ There are no off-leash hours when parks and fields are saturated from rain, or thawing in the spring. Please keep dogs off fields in these conditions. During and after rainfall, topsoil is 20 times more vulnerable to compaction.
- ◆ Dogs must be leashed when Parks Division crews are working in the parks.

2) Be Respectful to Other Park Users and Neighbors

- ◆ Clean up after your dog in off and on-leash areas. It's a courtesy and it's the law in Brookline.
- ◆ Maintain sight and voice control of your dog. You must be able to see your dog when off-leash, and maintain effective verbal control of your dog. You are personally liable for any damage or injury your dog inflicts or receives.
- ◆ Excessive barking is not allowed. Please play quietly especially in the early morning hours.
- ◆ Dogs are not allowed in playground areas, sand boxes, hard or clay tennis courts, or basketball courts.
- ◆ Dogs must not chase or disturb wildlife or enter sanctuaries or sensitive open spaces, such as shrub and flower beds.

3) Ensure Your Dog Meets the Criteria

- ◆ Aggressive dogs are not permitted on or off-leash. Dogs who exhibit aggressiveness towards people, other dogs, or wildlife will not be allowed to participate in the Program.
- ◆ The number of dogs per person is limited to three.
- ◆ Dogs must be 4 months old to participate in the program.
- ◆ Dogs in heat are not allowed off-leash.
- ◆ Dogs must be licensed, vaccinated, and healthy (no contagious conditions, diseases, or parasites).
- ◆ All dogs (and their owners) are subject to Section 8.6.7(a) of the Town's General By-Laws, which provide, in part, that "the person in charge of a dog inside a designated off leash area must control the animal so that it does not disturb the surrounding area by barking or other action and so that it does not disturb or threaten others using the designated off leash areas and the area surrounding the designated off leash area."

